

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00447 011032Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 TRSE-00 /077 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PEPR, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQ CRITICIZES US HUMAN RIGHTS STAND

REF: BAGHDAD 333

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER DEVOTED ALMOST A FULL PAGE IN ITS FEB 24 ISSUE TO CRITICISM OF INTERNAL US HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. UNDER TITLE OF "BIG JOKE," ARTICLE CRITICIZES CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS FAILURE TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROBLEM, AS WELL AS CYNICISM OF US HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM ABROAD.

2. FRONT PAGE OF SAME ISSUE, AS WELL AS ARABIC PRESS, CARRIED COVERAGE OF BAKR'S MEETING WITH PATRIARCH MAR DINKHA IV OF ASSYRIAN CHURCH, IN WHICH BROTHERHOOD OF ALL IRAQIS UNDER THE BAATH PARTY WAS STRESSED. (BAGHDAD 416)

3. COMMENT: GOI IS EVIDENTLY STILL SMARTING OVER PUBLICITY GENERATED BY IRAQI CHRISTIANS, WHO ARRIVED IN NEW YORK LAST JANUARY CLAIMING REFUGE FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION. IN ADDITION TO DENOUNCING THE CLAIM AS FRAUDULENT, WHICH IS ACTUALLY THE CASE, IRAQI MEDIA HAVE SPENT SOME EFFORT IN POINTING OUT THAT THE

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SITUATION IN THE US IS WORSE. IF IRAQ SUCCEEDS IN OBTAINING A SEAT ON THE ECOSOC HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES OF THE US HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT FURTHER ATTACKS ON OUR OWN DOMESTIC SITUATION AS WELL AS A DEFENSE OF IRAQ'S.

PECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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